

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Reply is filed in response to the final Official Action of April 24, 2007. Applicants note with appreciation that the final Official Action no longer rejects any of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), or under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Nonetheless, the Official Action continues to provisionally reject all of the pending claims, namely Claims 1-18, under the judicially-created doctrine of double patenting in view of the aforementioned U.S. Patent Application No. 10/608,697. In response, Applicants have submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer to address the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of all of the pending claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the double patenting rejection of all of the pending claims is overcome, and respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

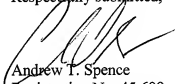
Application No.: 10/608,345
Amendment Dated October 24, 2007
Reply to Official Action of April 24, 2007

CONCLUSION

In view of the terminal disclaimer and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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